

Public Advocate and Compliance Advisory Panel Offers Assistance to Small Businesses

*by Cathy Colglazier
KDHE Public Advocate
Division of Environment*

Are you a small business that has questions or concerns regarding environmental regulations or other environmental issues? That's what the KDHE Public Advocate is for!

The Division of Environment's Public Advocate for Small Businesses is your source of information about whom to contact within the Division of Environment with your problem or issue regarding permits, prevention technologies or other environmental questions.. If you have questions about whom to contact regarding your permit, pollution prevention technologies, or other questions, call Cathy Colglazier at 1-800-357-6087.

Another resource for you to contact when you have concerns on how environmental regulations affect your small business is the Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP). The CAP is one of three components of the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, which is required by Section 507 of the Clean Air Act. The other two components are the ombudsman (a.k.a. Public Advocate) and the technical assistance program (K-State's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program).

The CAP is a seven-member panel appointed by the Governor, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Kansas House of Representatives and the Kansas Senate, and the Secretary of KDHE. The CAP's primary focus is air regulations, however, the panel can also address waste/hazardous waste, remediation, and water issues that affect small businesses.

The CAP meets about two or three times each year. Their duties include providing oversight for the program, reviewing information for small businesses to assure the information is understandable by the layperson, and reviewing and commenting on proposed regulations potentially affecting small businesses.

If you have a concern you'd like to discuss with a CAP member, feel free to give one of them a call. Members are:

Vick Cooper Kansas Department of Health and Environment (785) 296-1561

Gary Mason, Chair iSi (316)264-7050

Ralph Gutierrez, Jr. Cabinetry & Millworks Concepts (785) 232-1234

Vern Silvers Vern Silvers Associates (785) 827-4885

Scott Shmalberg Scotch Industries (785) 843-0639

Fred Sanders (785) 267-1768

Tom Murphy Lane Myers, Inc. (620) 622-4310

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